

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

The Nomads, one of the country's oldest and most successful air travel clubs, gets off to a bright new year, with members basking in the sun on trips to Clearwater, Fla., and Los Angeles.

Both the Nomads Lockheed Electra, a four-engine prop-jet, and its new Convair 990, a four-engine fan-jet added to the fleet by Thanksgiving, took off without any problems Dec. 26.

Nomads President Joe Benich said, "We were on Channel 4 News. We were among the few airplanes moving (from Metropolitan Airport) that day of the big snowstorm."

Starting its 11th year, the club has flown more than one million aircraft miles in perfect safety, with more than 90 million passenger miles.

ITS MEMBERSHIP is basically from the metropolitan area and totals nearly 3,000. Members keep a log book on their own air miles. For example, Imogene Hartley of Bloomfield Hills has flown more than 100,000 miles.

Benich, who is also the club's full-time general manager, said the Convair 990 is the fastest airplane flying today. The Convair has a 640 mph

Nomads flying high in club's 11th year

crusing speed, 134 seats and a crew of six.

The Convair's first Nomads flight was for the Thanksgiving trip to the Bahamas. The Lockheed Electra, which seats 90, also flew the same trip. Two hundred twenty-four Nomads spent Thanksgiving at Cape Eleuthera.

In December, the club celebrated its 10th anniversary dinner with a big party attended by more than 700 members. The event was a semi-formal dinner dance at the Fairlane Manor in Dearborn.

"THE NOMADS has flown 201 trips, from dinner flights to around the world," Benich said. "With the new airplane we have increased seats and the schedule by 150 per cent."

The Nomads' next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Jan. 13 at the Ramada Inn in Southfield. It is open to prospective members. Films on Yugoslavia will be shown, and passport photos of members will be taken, as a service.

The club's two biggest trips coming up this year are a South Pacific En-core, from April 16 through May 9, and an Around-the-World trip, to the backside—New Delhi, Bangkok, Sing-

apore, Tokyo and Taipei, in September.

This summer the Nomads' first trip to Eastern Europe will fly to Yugoslavia and Hungary, in July.

Benich described the club members as "Michigan envoys known around the world." He added, "Nomads is America's only around-the-world air travel club."

Besides its travel and monthly meeting schedule, the Nomads presents an annual Ladies Day luncheon and fashion show in November. This year's event was at Pine Lake Country Club. A special activity this fall was, an open house for the new Convair 990 jet aircraft at the Executive Terminal of Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Romulus.



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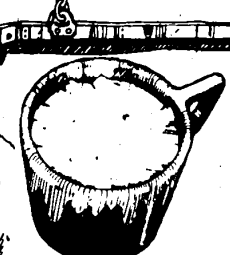
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